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## UD Announces Plans to Build Modern New Science Complex

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# *The University of Dayton*

## *News Release*

March 28, 1992  
Contact: Rosemary Harty

### **UD ANNOUNCES PLANS TO BUILD MODERN NEW SCIENCE COMPLEX**

DAYTON, Ohio--A \$1 million gift from a local supporter of the University of Dayton will help the University create a science complex designed to meet the needs of the 21st century, with expanded and improved laboratory and classroom space and first-class research facilities for science and mathematics.

The gift represents the first major commitment in the University's three-phase \$14 million project to renovate and revitalize Wohlleben Hall and Sherman Hall, linking the two buildings to create one modern science complex in the heart of campus. Some improvements will begin as soon as this summer in the common area of both buildings, with major construction tentatively scheduled for 1994.

"I am very grateful to this donor for a generous commitment to our science complex project," UD President Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M. said. Fitz announced the gift during "Celebrate the Sciences," an event on campus for alumni and community leaders. The donor prefers to remain anonymous.

At the time they were built in the late 1950s, Sherman and Wohlleben were well

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suited to the needs of science education. Many of the tools used to conduct research today were unavailable then. "The quantum leaps in science have made us rethink the design of the buildings so they are compatible with the new ways of teaching science," Fitz said.

Modern science and mathematics facilities will provide the tools that university will need in revising its academic approach to encompass interdisciplinary methods of investigation.

And the complex will help the University attract the most talented students in the science and engineering fields at a time when demographics show the U.S. faces a critical shortage of professionals in these fields. Demand for scientists and engineers in the U.S. is expected to outpace the supply by as many as half a million, according to the National Science Foundation.

The foundation also predicts a shortage of Ph.D.s in science and engineering: one third of the country's science faculty is over 50. The University faces a dual challenge to recruit faculty as well as students.

"Universities will be competing for the best talent. And with the best in professional research facilities, the University will be in a position to attract top-flight faculty," Fitz said.

In 1990-91, 29 percent of UD's undergraduate degrees and 21 percent of the graduate degrees were awarded in science and engineering.

UD's Science Complex will be among several multi-million-dollar projects launched at UD in the 1990s as part of the Campus 2000 plan. Construction of the Jesse Philips Humanities Center, a new building for UD's liberal arts disciplines, is scheduled to begin in April.



A new \$20 million School of Law will feature the most advanced information systems technology and the Mathias H. Heck Model Courtroom featuring computers, video displays and other high-technology equipment. Construction on this project will begin in 1995.

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